

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A blower unit mounting structure comprising:

an instrument panel including an upper panel and a lower panel that are vertically divided along a transverse direction of a vehicle body;

a steering support beam fixed to the lower panel; and

a blower unit fixed to the lower panel and to the steering support beam to form a unitized component,

wherein said lower panel is upwardly open to provide access to said blower unit from above.;

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The blower unit mounting structure as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:

a front bulkhead that includes ~~including~~ a vertical wall surface with an opening;

~~wherein a duct of the blower unit is connected to the opening for providing outside air into the blower unit.~~

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A blower unit mounting structure comprising:

an instrument panel including an upper panel and a lower panel that are vertically divided along a transverse direction of a vehicle body;

a steering support beam fixed to the lower panel;

a blower unit fixed to the lower panel and to the steering support beam to form a unitized component; and ~~The blower unit mounting structure as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:~~

a toe board having a recessed portion, wherein said blower unit comprises a leg portion extended toward the toe board and engaged with the recessed portion.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The blower unit mounting structure as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising:

a toe board having a recessed portion, wherein said blower unit comprises a leg portion extended toward the toe board and engaged with the recessed portion.

Claims 5-6. (Canceled).

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A blower unit mounting structure comprising:

an instrument panel including an upper panel and a lower panel;

a steering support beam connected to said lower panel; and

a blower unit connected to said steering support beam and said lower panel,

wherein said lower panel is upwardly open to provide access to said blower unit from above.

Claim 8. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The blower unit mounting structure as set forth in Claim 7, further comprising:

a toe board having a recessed portion.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A blower unit mounting structure comprising:

an instrument panel including an upper panel and a lower panel;

a steering support beam connected to said lower panel;

a blower unit connected to said steering support beam and said lower panel;

a toe board having a recessed portion; and

~~The blower unit mounting structure as set forth in Claim 9, further comprising:~~

a leg portion extended toward the toe board and engaged with the recessed portion.

Claims 11-28. (Canceled).

Claim 29. (New) The structure of claim 1, wherein said lower panel is upwardly open to provide access from above to said blower unit to align a duct of said blower unit with an opening in a front bulkhead.

Claim 30. (New) The structure of claim 1, wherein said duct extends from an upper part of said blower unit.

Claim 31. (New) The structure of claim 1, wherein said blower unit comprises a duct for aligning with an opening in a vertical wall surface of a front bulkhead of said vehicle body.

Claim 32. (New) The structure of claim 1, wherein said steering support beam comprises mounting brackets for attachment to said vehicle body.

Claim 33. (New) The structure of claim 1, wherein said lower panel comprises a glove box fastened by an upper surface to said steering support beam.

Claim 34. (New) The structure of claim 33, wherein said blower unit comprises a blower main body that is disposed along a front side of said glove box.

Claim 35. (New) The structure of claim 33, wherein said blower unit comprises a heater and ventilation unit disposed along a side of said glove box.

Claim 36. (New) The structure of claim 7, wherein said lower panel is upwardly open to provide access from above to said blower unit to align a duct of said blower unit with an opening in a front bulkhead.

Claim 37. (New) The structure of claim 7, wherein said blower unit comprises a duct for aligning with an opening in a vertical wall surface of a front bulkhead of said vehicle body.

Claim 38. (New) The structure of claim 7, wherein said blower unit comprises a duct for aligning with an opening in a vertical wall surface of a front bulkhead of said vehicle body.

Claim 39. (New) The structure of claim 7, wherein said steering support beam comprises mounting brackets for attachment to a vehicle body.

Claim 40. (New) The structure of claim 7, wherein said lower panel comprises a glove

box fastened by an upper surface to said steering support beam.

Claim 41. (New) The structure of claim 40, wherein said blower unit comprises a blower main body that is disposed along a front side of said glove box.

Claim 42. (New) The structure of claim 40, wherein said blower unit comprises a heater and ventilation unit disposed along a side of said glove box.

Claim 43. (New) A blower unit mounting structure for a vehicle, the structure comprising:

- an instrument panel including an upper panel and a lower panel;

- a steering support beam connected to said lower panel; and

- a blower unit connected to said steering support beam and said lower panel,

wherein said blower unit comprises a duct for mounting to an opening in a vertical wall surface of a front bulkhead of said vehicle.